

challenged position, in 1808. Swept away by the French flood in 1808, "our only friend," as Charles IV called him, shared the exile of the royal couple at Fontainebleau and Rome. The Queen plays a small part in the Memoirs though she is always mentioned with respect; but there can be no doubt of the sincerity of the friendship between the old monarch and the Favourite long after there was any need for subservience on the one hand or political services on the other. His wish to combine a history of his master's reign with his own defence was thwarted by Charles IV, who begged him to publish nothing so long as his son Ferdinand was alive. "You cannot defend yourself without attacking and wounding him."

The apologia had to wait till the death of Ferdinand in 1833. At last Godoy was free to pay off old scores, and he made full use of his opportunity. Few political adventurers have risen so high and fallen so low, and we cannot expect objectivity in such a record of triumphs and disasters, imprisonment and exile. His English biographer Edmund D'Auvergne accepts in the main the complacent portrait painted in the Memoirs. Most historians of the Napoleonic era, on the other hand, reject a good deal of his testimony, and among his countrymen there is little tenderness for his memory. Favourites are never very popular while they are in power, and they have still fewer friends when their brief span is over.

Prince Metternich left instructions that his papers should not appear till twenty years after his death, which took place in 1859. His *Mémoires, Documents et écrits Divers* edited by his son Richard and published simultaneously in French, German and English, fill eight stout volumes, but the autobiography only claims the first and a few pages in the seventh. It consists of three parts. The earliest, entitled *History of the Alliances, 1813-15*, was written in 1829, but it was unfinished, for the

year of Waterloo was not reached. The second, *Materials for the history of my Ufe*, written in 1844, describes his fortunes down to 1810. The third, *Key to my Attitude during my Ministry*, 1809-48, was written in 1852, but it is only a fragment. This is no very serious loss, for the heroic period of his career ended with the overthrow of Napoleon.

** I wish to render a last service to the immortal Emperor Francis I who called me his best friend/* wrote the old statesman in 1844. This service could be best performed by painting him as he was. The affectionate picture of the Emperor recalls Bismarck's portrait of William I, a ruler of lofty character, the